

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

49. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a query, the method comprising:

receiving from a first computer system a request to process a query at a second computer system, the request to process the query comprising data and metadata and a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata at the second computer system;

the second computer system processing the query including performing the operation on the data and the metadata to generate a result for the query, the data and the metadata not having been stored on the second computer system prior to the second computer system receiving the request to process the query; and

the second computer system returning the result of the query to the first computer system.

50-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the query includes a pointer to the data and the metadata required to process the query.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein:
the data and the metadata required to process the query are stored on a
third computer system separate from the second computer system; and
the pointer points to the data and the metadata stored on the third
computer system.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the second
computer system is in communication with the first computer system through a
network.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the network
comprises the Internet.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein:
the second computer system receives the request to process the query
from the first computer system in accordance with a first Internet protocol; and
the second computer system processes the query in accordance with a
second Internet protocol.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the first
computer system comprises a client machine and the second computer system
comprises a server machine.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the objects comprise one or more objects selected from the group consisting of tables, triggers and indexes.

60-81. (Cancelled)